

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)	
)	
of the Educator Certificate of)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	
Christi C. Sauls,)	
)	
Certificate 181973)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 13, 2008. On April 10, 2007, the State Department of Education (Department) sent Christi C. Sauls a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Upon receipt of the notice, Ms. Sauls agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to enter into a repayment plan. The Department then sent Ms. Sauls a repayment agreement. Ms. Sauls signed the agreement on May 18, 2007. The signed repayment agreement and an initial payment of \$100.00 were received by the Department on May 25, 2007. On July 2, 2007, Ms. Sauls made an additional payment of \$287.50. On September 4, 2007, Ms. Sauls made another payment of \$287.50. Thereafter, Ms. Sauls failed to comply with the terms of the repayment agreement. Ms. Sauls has not repaid the remaining balance of \$475.00 which is now past due. After considering the information presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Sauls's certificate until she repays the full amount owed on her outstanding loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA).

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Sauls holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has over ten years of teaching experience. On October 10, 2001, Ms. Sauls signed a promissory note with the State of South Carolina to obtain a loan of \$2300 to pay for the costs of applying for certification from the National

Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). One of the terms of that promissory note was that the loan recipient would be obligated to repay one half of the loan amount, \$1150, if after participation in the process for one year, she did not continue or otherwise successfully complete the process of obtaining NBPTS certification. Under this term of the agreement, Ms. Sauls is now obligated to repay the outstanding amount owed. CERRA and the Department have sent several letters to Ms. Sauls informing her that the \$1150 was due and of the consequences for failing to repay the amount due. After receiving notice of the possible suspension of her educator certificate, Ms. Sauls agreed to waive her right to a hearing and entered into a repayment agreement. Ms. Sauls executed the repayment agreement on May 18, 2007. The signed repayment agreement and an initial payment of \$100.00 were received by the Department on May 25, 2007. Ms. Sauls submitted a subsequent payment of \$287.50 that was received by the Department on July 2, 2007. On September 4, 2007, the Department received an additional payment of \$287.50. Thereafter, Ms. Sauls failed to comply with the terms of the repayment agreement. Ms. Sauls has not repaid the remaining balance of \$475.00 that is now past due.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). The State Board finds that there is sufficient information to support its decision to suspend Ms. Sauls's educator certificate from the date of this Order until she has satisfied her remaining financial obligation to the State of South Carolina, as established in the promissory note referenced above. Upon full payment of the balance due, if Ms. Sauls wishes to have her certificate reinstated, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Educator Certification of the Department of Education.

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South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 

Al Simpson, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 13, 2008